

**FORM C – OBJECT**

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

/3	Boston North	AC, AG, B	906
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Lexington

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): Lexington Green

**Photograph**



**Address or Location:** Massachusetts Avenue

**Name:** Revolutionary War Monument

**Ownership:**  Public     Private

**Type of Object** (*check one*):

- statue
- bust
- group composition
- religious shrine
- other (*specify*)
- monument
- milestone
- marker
- boundary marker

**Date of Construction:** 1799

**Source:** on monument

**Designer/Sculptor:** Thomas Park

**Materials:** granite, marble

**Alterations** (*with dates*):

1835 – fence installed around monument;  
New marble tablet on front.

**Condition:** good

**Moved:**  no     yes    **Date**

**Acreage:** 2.54 acres (entire Green)

**Setting:** the Green

**Topographic or Assessor's Map**



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Oct. 2009

# INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

MASS AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

## DESIGN ASSESSMENT

*Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

The Revolutionary War Monument consists of a granite obelisk set on a simple pedestal consisting of die and plinth. Mounted on one face of the die is a marble tablet bearing an inscription honoring the eight men who died on the Green on April 19, 1775.

On the front of the monument base are the words "Executed by Tho. Park".

The monument is surrounded by a simple iron fence.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.*

Erected on July 4, 1799 this was the first Revolutionary monument in the country. The cost of the monument was \$400 and was funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its position marks the approximate location of the west end of the line formed by the Minute Men on April 19, 1775. The inscription on the monument was composed by Jonas Clarke, minister to Lexington from 1752 to 1805.

Seven of the eight Americans killed that day are interred in the tomb beneath the monument. The bodies were moved here with great ceremony on April 20, 1835 from the Old Burying Ground behind the First Parish Church. Edward Everett was the orator. The iron fence was erected at that time. In 1835 it was also voted to place a new marble tablet in the face of the monument – a copy of the original one which was made of slate.



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**ENTIRE INSCRIPTION** *(if applicable):*

Sacred to Liberty & the Rights of mankind!!!  
 The Freedom & Independence of America,  
 Sealed & defended with the blood of her sons.

This Monument is erected  
 By the inhabitants of Lexington  
 Under the patronage and at the expense of  
 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
 To the memory of their Fellow Citizens,  
 Ensign ROBERT MUNROE, and Messrs. JONAS PARKER,  
 SAMUEL HADLEY, JONATHAN HARRINGTON, JR.,  
 ISAAC MUZZY, CALEB HARRINGTON AND JOHN BROWN,  
 Of Lexington and ASAHIEL PORTER of Woburn,  
 Who fell on this field, the first victims to the  
 Sword of British Tyranny and Oppression  
 On the morning of the ever memorable  
 Nineteenth of April, An. Dom. 1775,  
 The Die was cast !!!  
 The Blood of these Martyrs  
 In the cause of their God and their Country  
 Was the Cement of the Union of these States, then  
 Colonies, and gave the spring to the Spirit, Firmness  
 And Resolution of their Fellow Citizens,  
 They rose as one man to Revenge their Brethren's  
 Blood, and at the Point of the Sword, to Assert  
 And defend their Native Rights,  
 They Nobly dar'd to be Free!!  
 The contest was long, Bloody and Affecting.  
 Righteous Heaven Approved the Solemn Appeal  
 Victory crowned their Arms; and  
 The Peace, Liberty, and Independence of the United  
 States of America was their Glorious Reward.  
*Built in the year 1799.*

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:**

Seeley, O.G. *Guide Book of Lexington and Concord With Maps and History*. Lexington: O.G. Seeley, 1901

*Historic Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Town of Lexington 1884*. Lexington: 1884, p. 13-14.

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington from its first settlement to 1868* (Revised and Continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913, vol. 1, p. 191.

National Historic Landmark Nomination, Lexington Green, 1974.

Worthen, Edwin. *Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946*. Lexington: 1946: p. 42, 59.

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